

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A tearable hemostasis valve, comprising:
a valve body;
a first grip tab attached to said valve body at a first point;
a second grip tab attached to said valve body at a second point;
a score line disposed on said valve body between said first and second points;
a first membrane disposed within said valve body; and
a snap-fit arrangement attached to said valve body.
2. The valve of claim 1, wherein said first membrane is bonded to said valve body.
3. The valve of claim 1, wherein said first membrane is integrally formed with said valve body.
4. The valve of claim 3, wherein said first point and said second point are the same.
5. The valve of claim 4, wherein:
said first membrane comprises a material of a first durometer; and
said valve body comprises a material of a second durometer, said second durometer higher than said first durometer.
6. The valve of claim 5, further comprising a score in said first membrane.
7. The valve of claim 5, further comprising a second membrane disposed within said valve body parallel to said first membrane.
8. The valve of claim 7, wherein said first and second membranes are self-sealing.
9. The valve of claim 8, wherein said snap-fit arrangement comprises:
a cavity disposed in said valve body; and
an annular sidewall defining an opening in communication with said cavity.

10. The valve of claim 9, wherein said annular sidewall is flexible.
11. The valve of claim 9, wherein said opening is located below said cavity.
12. The valve of claim 9, wherein said opening is located along one side of said cavity.
13. A method for removing a sheath from a patient's body, comprising:
splitting a hemostasis valve attached to said sheath along a lateral axis of said valve;
splitting said sheath along a longitudinal axis of said sheath; and
removing said valve from said sheath; and
pulling said sheath from said patient's body while splitting said sheath.
14. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of removing said valve from said sheath comprises sliding said valve away from said sheath along a split formed along said lateral axis.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of splitting said sheath along a longitudinal axis of said sheath comprises:
exerting force on at least one sheath wing away from said longitudinal axis; and
tearing said sheath along a score line parallel to said longitudinal axis.
16. A splittable sheath, comprising:
a flexible body defining a hollow cavity therein;
means for splitting said sheath operably connected to said flexible body
at least one sheath wing operably connected to said means for splitting;
a neck affixed to said flexible body and having a first diameter; and
a hub affixed to said neck, said hub having a second diameter greater than said first diameter.
17. The splittable sheath of claim 16, wherein said neck and hub define a pathway from said cavity to an exterior of said sheath.

18. The splittable sheath of claim 17, wherein said means for splitting comprises at least one score line.

19. The splittable sheath of claim 18, wherein said at least one score line extends parallel to a longitudinal axis of said sheath.

20. The splittable sheath of claim 19, wherein said at least one score line extends along the entirety of said neck, hub, and body.